

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Lt. Colonel Bigelow

DATE: November 1, 1943

FROM: Lt. Colonel Lowman

SUBJECT: Commissioning of Sergeant Lang

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1. Relative to the discussion which you held with our Branch in connection with the directive of the Secretary of War of October 15, 1943, we would like to place before the Officers' Board again the reconsideration of the commissioning of Sergeant Lang.

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2. It is the belief of this Branch that there is full justification for this reconsideration and approval by your board of his application for a commission owing to the following extenuating circumstances.

A. Colonel Lowman checked with the Signal Corps and was told that they have no officer that they could give us for this work. They stated that they themselves were short and that the best that could be done would be to train some man for us. The great urgency and constant cabled requests for this trained and experienced man nullify the value of such a proposal as the time element alone precludes any such course of training.

B. We ourselves, in this Branch, are finding it extremely difficult to procure a replacement for Sergeant Lang pending his departure for the field. (Considering the responsibility of the work he should rank as a commissioned officer.)

C. This work entails not only a man of high personal character and integrity since it requires the utmost secrecy and a long training in security habits and procedure, but also requires speed, calmness and judgment in the execution of its responsibilities.

D. There are no large pools upon which to draw for officer material with this experienced background and training and the immediate pressure upon us for this man makes a long search for the right person almost impossible and an endangering procedure for our field operations if we have to continue further the search for an officer in this case.

E. This particular position is probably the most pressing one in our North African communications activities at the moment.

F. It is essential that the position be a militarized one as the work in which he will be engaged may carry him forward into advance message center operations with tactical forces communications units and he will be in direct charge of military men operating such message centers in the field.

G. The qualifications, training, experience, character and personality of this applicant, as well as the responsibilities which he will be assuming, fully entitle him to the rank of commissioned officer.

In view of the above considerations, it is earnestly requested that immediate reconsideration of Sergeant Lang's application for a commission be carefully considered and acted upon by the OSS Board of Officers.

Lawrence W. Lowman

Lawrence W. Lowman
Lt. Colonel, Sig C
Chief, Communications Branch